

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

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EUR/WE - ANNE PINKNEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

INFO SECDEF

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CINCLANTFLT

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CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168269

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MARR, OCLR, MNUC, NO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF NPW TO NORTHERN EUROPE

REFS: (A) STATE 131054; (B) OSLO 02400

1. REFTTEL A PROVIDED INFORMATION ON NAVY PLANNING FOR FORTHCOMING CRUISE BY USS SOUTH CAROLINA (CGN-37) TO NORTHERN EUROPE. REFTTEL B REPORTED FAVORABLE REACTION TO POSSIBLE VISIT TO NORWAY BY SOUTH CAROLINA BUT STATED THAT VISIT SHOULD OCCUR FOLLOWING NORWEGIAN ELECTIONS 14-15 SEPTEMBER.

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2. NAVY IS NOW PLANNING FOR THE NUCLEAR POWERED AIRCRAFT

CARRIER USS NIMITZ AND A NUCLEAR POWERED ATTACK SUBMARINE TO ACCOMPANY SOUTH CAROLINA IN A TASK GROUP. CURRENT PLANS CONTEMPLATE THAT NIMITZ, RATHER THAN SOUTH CAROLINA, WOULD SEPARATE FROM TASK GROUP AND CALL AT OSLO DURING THE DEPLOYMENT. A VISIT BY NIMITZ, OUR MOST MODERN WARSHIP, WOULD PROVIDE A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION TO THE NORWEGIANS OF OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

3. SCHEDULING CONSTRAINTS LIMIT VISIT PERIOD AVAILABILITY FOR NIMITZ (AND FOR THE OTHER SHIPS IN TASK GROUP AS WELL)

TO LATE AUGUST-EARLY SEPTEMBER. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY, NIMITZ VISIT TO OSLO PRIOR TO MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WOULD RAISE SAME POLITICAL CONCERNS AS DID PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED SOUTH CAROLINA VISIT. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE CONSIDERATIONS STATED ABOVE AND SINCE OTHER FACTORS MAY BE PRESENT, REQUEST EMBASSY ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER NIMITZ VISIT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GON IN THE LATE AUGUST-EARLY SEPTEMBER TIME FRAME. KISSINGER

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